

PROJECT ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

The Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) groups activities into five major categories. They are:

- **Planning, Research, Monitoring, and Assessment**
- **Education, Outreach, and Capacity-building**
- **Habitat Restoration**
- **Load Reduction**
- **Beneficial Use Improvement and Protection**

These categories allow you to assemble and organize activities with similar attributes and evaluate them using a set of performance measures or indicators common to each category. Many grant projects implement multiple activities in more than one category. In some cases, the boundaries between categories are indistinct. For example, certain habitat restoration activities, such as establishment and re-vegetation of riparian buffers with native plants, may also contribute to reducing sediment or nutrient loads. In such cases, the PAEP should reflect effectiveness measures that apply to the appropriate activity category. In the above example, outcome indicators for sediment load reduction might include model calculations according to the methodology described in <http://it.tetrattech-ffx.com/stepl/>, while outcome indicators for the same kind of activity applicable to habitat restoration might include linear miles of historical flood plain features restored to equilibrium conditions.

Planning, Research, Monitoring, and Assessment includes activities that precede implementation of pollution prevention and reduction practices, restoration of habitat or beneficial uses, and implementation of education and training activities. These kinds of activities can include development of analytical methods for detection of recently approved pesticides in surface water or sediment, new test procedures for detection of sub-lethal adverse effects on aquatic organisms, or testing of alternative hypotheses related to pollutant transport mechanisms or watershed functions. Activities in this category may also include beneficial use impairment assessment and analyses of limiting factors to beneficial use recovery.

Education, Outreach, and Capacity-building includes activities that are primarily designed to increase awareness about human activities that contribute to beneficial use impairment and to change behavior in such a way that human-induced stressors on aquatic organisms or watershed processes and functions are reduced below critical threshold levels.

Habitat Restoration includes activities that directly improve the physical or biological condition of a water body, stream reach, or watershed area or restore critical landscape features essential for the maintenance of aquatic habitat and organisms dependent on it.

Load Reduction includes activities that directly contribute to preventing or reducing quantifiable amounts of pollutants from entering waterbodies and aquatic food webs and are usually associated with Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans.

Beneficial Use Improvement and Protection includes activities that improve and protect beneficial uses as defined in Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Chapter 2, §13050(f), http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_laws/docs/portercologne.pdf. Other activities may provide flood protection, or a new water supply that maintains the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of current beneficial uses.